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THE INTERIM

**The Monthly Report
of Legislative
Activity**



A Publication of



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THE INTERIM TO FEATURE NEW SECTION

Feature Article to be Presented Each Month...Beginning with the September issue, *The Interim* will feature an article each month on a specific topic of interest to our readers. The article may be a summary of an article from another source, an expansion of a topic being pursued by an interim or statutory committee, or an issue identified by a Legislative Council staff member as being of importance to Montana. The articles will be written by different staff members and will be in addition to the committee information already being provided in *The Interim*.

It is hoped that this feature article will provide legislators and others with pertinent information that will be useful in formulating state policy on various issues. We look forward to your comments on this new addition to *The Interim*.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Legislative Fiscal Analyst Resigns...Teresa Olcott Cohea, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, has resigned her position effective September 10, 1993. Representative Tom Nelson, chairman of the Legislative Finance Committee, has appointed a screening subcommittee. The subcommittee met on July 14 and adopted a job description for the position and a procedure for

advertising the position and screening applicants. Applications are due by August 10.

Committee to Interview Finalists...The Committee will meet on September 9-10 in Helena to interview and select the new Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The Committee will also hear staff reports on budget amendments, fiscal 1993 revenue collections, and workplans for the 1995 biennium.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

Subcommittees to Meet...At the request of the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the chairs of the Senate Finance and Claims and House Appropriations committees, the six joint appropriations subcommittees have scheduled meetings, in preparation for the possible special session, to exchange ideas for prioritizing services, reorganizing programs, eliminating programs, and other potential areas for improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of state government. If a special session is not convened, the ideas generated in the meetings will assist the Legislature and the Executive in preparing for the 1995 legislative session. Three of the subcommittees met in July. The dates for the remaining subcommittee meetings are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
August 2	General Government & Transportation	8:00 a.m.	108
August 10	Human Services	8:00 a.m.	104
August 20	Institutions & Cultural Education	10:00 a.m.	104

The subcommittees will meet a second time later this summer. The Office of Budget and Program Planning will provide details on options it is exploring, allowing subcommittee members to comment and make suggestions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Council Meets in July...The Legislative Council met Tuesday, July 20 to act on several council responsibilities. Among the decisions made were the following:

- adoption of publication prices for Montana Code Annotated publications. (The price for legislators remains by statute at \$10.) A complete price list may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Council.
- adoption, as the approving authority, of the Legislative Council Operations operating budget as required by law.
- reestablishment of the policy that interim committee work related to proposing bills be completed no later than September 15 preceding a session. The Council directed staff to pass on a request to other legislative agencies to adopt the same policy for work under their jurisdiction. Early completion allows sufficient time to draft all bills resulting from legislative interim work prior to the time staff must focus attention on individual legislative requests.
- decided that due to budget reductions, the Council will not fund the Montana-Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee or the Five-State Legislative Conference.
- decided that NCSL dues not be paid at this time pending a decision on whether there will be a special session to reduce general fund budgets.
- decided to recommend to the rules committees of both Houses that 10 signatures be required on a draft request form to request drafting of a resolution.

Council Revises Interim Study of Retirement Issues... Under House Bill No. 65, a legislative committee is required to review and comment on all proposed legislation relating to non-federal public employee retirement issues. Additionally, House Bill No. 485 directs the committee to conduct reviews of the states' public employee retirement systems to ascertain the advisability and financial implications of providing GABAs (Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjustments) or COLAs (cost of living adjustments). The Legislature also requested, in House Joint Resolution No. 17, a narrow study of public safety occupations and the appropriateness of such occupations being included within the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) rather than within one of the retirement systems created for other public safety occupations and personnel.

The Legislature appropriated \$7,200 in general funds for the committee's activities, and an additional \$14,400 in state special revenue (to be provided by either the retirement systems or public employee associations). At its meeting on July 20, the Legislative Council agreed that fiscal prudence would allow a study encompassing only the HB 65 study of proposed legislation. Consequently, the Council chose to not

assign the study requested in HJR 17 to the committee. Further, the Council recommends to the committee that the HB 485 study be conducted only if the state's public employee retirement systems or public employee organizations provide the state special revenue (\$14,400) proposed during the regular session.

Inquiries can be directed to Dave Bohyer or Bob Person at the Legislative Council, 444-3064.

LIBRARY

Committee Minutes Available...The Legislative Council Library has now received most of the committee minutes from the 53rd Legislature and is completing the process of arranging for their conversion to microfiche for distribution throughout the state. Please call the Library (444-3064) for information about the status of any particular set of minutes.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Interim Committee Appointment Imminent...Appointment of House members is nearly complete for the joint interim study committees and other legislative committees. Appointment of Senate members to the committees is anticipated to be completed by early- or mid-August. Later appointment of members to interim legislative committees may delay the start-up time of the study committees and their work, but only moderately. Members appointed to the study committees will be notified of organizational meeting dates, likely to be in September, as soon as Legislative Council staff and the senior senator for each committee have developed tentative plans.

Committee Appointments Made...The memberships of the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families, as appointed by the Senate and House leadership, for the 1993-94 interim are:

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Sen. Del Gage (R)
Sen. Ethel Harding (R)
Sen. Barry "Spook" Stang (D)
Sen. Jeff Weldon (D)

Rep. Bob Gervais (D)
Rep. Jay Stovall (R)
Rep. Rolph Tunby (R)
Rep. Carley Tuss (D)

JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Sen. David Rye (R)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Rep. Beverly Bernhart (D)
Rep. Liz Smith (R)
Rep. Randy Vogel (R)
Rep. Timothy Whalen (D)

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

To Meet on September 13...The Water Policy Committee has tentatively scheduled its next meeting for Monday, September 13, 1993, in Missoula. The exact location and meeting times will be decided next month. Agenda items will include continued discussion of the instream flow and nondegradation issues, a public meeting on the "Late Claims" study, and an update by the Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee.

For more information on these issues, please contact the EQC staff at 444-3742.

**WATER QUALITY NONDEGRADATION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Subcommittee Begins Hearings...Four Water Policy Committee (WPC) members have been invited by the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to participate on a joint EQC-WPC subcommittee looking at water quality nondegradation issues. The subcommittee scheduled public hearings for the last week of July in Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell, and Missoula. The meetings are part of a one and one-half year study of the nondegradation issue requested by the 1993 Legislature.

The subcommittee stated in a press release that the purpose of the hearings was to solicit public comment on nondegradation issues as well as comments on study goals and a study framework. Water quality nondegradation requirements have always been controversial and recent changes in the water quality laws by the 1993 Legislature will impact residential development, as well as the timber, mining, and agricultural industries.

It is expected that the subcommittee will report its findings to the full EQC at the next EQC meeting in September. The Council will present its findings and recommendations to the Legislature in 1995.

The joint subcommittee consists of the following members:

Eastern Montana

EQC - Sen. Grosfield (Chair)
Glenn Marx
Jeanne-Marie Souvigney
WPC - Rep. Keller
Rep. Russell

Western Montana

EQC - Sen. Doherty (Chair)
Bob Boeh
Greg Tollefson
WPC - Sen. Bianchi
Sen. Swift

WPC Alternates - Sen. Hockett and Rep. Fagg

For further information, please contact the EQC staff at 444-3742.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Hazardous Waste Study Begins...The SJR 34 hazardous waste management working group held its first meeting on July 23, 1993. The working group, formed as part of the legislatively-requested study on hazardous waste management, is composed of 6 EQC members, representatives from small and large quantity in-state generators, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, environmental groups, hazardous waste transporters, the cement kiln industry, and interested citizens.

The working group identified four potential study topics:

- (1) evaluation of the status and adequacy of the state regulatory framework;
- (2) recommendations for a state policy regarding hazardous waste management;
- (3) analysis of the state's potential role in facilitating hazardous waste prevention; and
- (4) evaluation of the impacts of existing and changing regulations on hazardous waste generators.

There will be two public hearings on the working group's recommended study topics. The hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th, in Missoula and Billings. The subcommittee will report its findings and recommendations to the full Council at the EQC September meeting.

To Meet in September...The next EQC meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17, 1993. Agenda items will include finalizing the interim work plan and a continued discussion of the nondegradation and hazardous waste issues.

For more information on these issues, please contact the EQC staff at 444-3742.

COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

Campaign Financing Report Available...Ed Argenbright, Commissioner of Political Practices, has announced that *Campaign Financing 1992* is now available from his office at a cost of \$25.00. The two-volume set reports each contribution and expenditure made by or to statewide candidates, state district candidates, and statewide ballot issue committees.

Persons purchasing the set and who provide three small computer diskettes can have the data transferred to the diskettes in WordPerfect format for an additional \$5.00.

Pre-payment is required. Requests should be sent to:

Commissioner of Political Practices
P.O. Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620

HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN COMMITTEE

Committee is Formed...Senate Bill No. 285 mandated the creation of a Health Benefit Plan Committee to recommend two mandatory health insurance benefit plans to be offered by small employers in the state of Montana. A small employer is defined as a business employing between three and 25 workers. As a condition of selling health insurance in Montana, insurers will be required to offer these plans and must provide coverage to any group applying. The Committee, appointed by Insurance Commissioner Mark O'Keefe, is composed of representatives of health care providers, the health insurance industry, small employers, labor unions, and the general public.

Meetings Begin...The Committee held its first meeting on July 26, 1993. The Committee will hold six more meetings, including a public hearing, over the next five months. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 1993.

To receive mailings regarding the implementation of this insurance legislation, please contact:

Carol Roy
State Auditor's Office
P.O. Box 4009
Helena, MT 59604-4009
444-2040



INTERIM CALENDAR

August 2, General Government & Transportation
Appropriations Subcommittee, Room 108, 8:00 a.m.

August 10, Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, Room 104,
8:00 a.m.

August 20, Institutions & Cultural Education, Room 104, 10:00 a.m.

August 23, Health Benefit Plan Committee

September 6, Labor Day, holiday

September 9 & 10, Legislative Finance Committee, Room 104

September 10, Environmental Quality Council

September 13, Water Policy Committee, Missoula

September 17, Revenue Oversight Committee, Room 104,
9:30 a.m.

October 11, Columbus Day observed, holiday

October 25, Health Benefit Plan Committee

November 11, Veterans' Day, holiday

November 15, Health Benefit Plan Committee

November 25, Thanksgiving Day, holiday

December 13 & 14, Health Benefit Plan Committee, public hearing on
December 13

December 24, Christmas Eve, holiday

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